

Castlemaine Naturalist

June 2006

Vol. 31.5 #333



Cranberry Heath
Astroloma humifusum

Castlemaine Field Naturalists - 2006 - Celebrating 30 years

Dingo Story – 12.5.06

Tehree Gordon gave us an outline of her work with handicapped and abused young people, and the animal shelter she runs on the Bellarine Peninsula, while explaining how she came to be involved in the Dingo Farm, which she prefers to call the Dingo Centre. She told something of the history of the place and Bruce's interest, problems and involvement with the Dingoes, and the problems she has had since his death. She explained that for a number of reasons she didn't want to take the Dingo Farm on, but decided in the end, for the sake of the dogs, she would do it.

They have bought more land to give them more room, and have got more vegetation growing where it was completely bare before, except for the trees. There are always two people at the site now, to feed and look after the dogs, and carry out maintenance and improvements, and, because it is really hard work they change over every fortnight. Many improvements have been made, and the dogs are able to keep more to their own family groups, which is the natural way for them to live. She told us that howling is how they "talk" to each other, how they are led by an alpha dog who starts the roll call after an afternoon nap, how they have differing personalities, and how the behaviour of the cross-breed dogs is quite different.

A double fence is being erected, a double entrance with a holding area to prevent the animals escaping has been completed, and all but two of the eighteen Dingoes which had escaped are now back in the compound. One, which had been freed from the cage trap by a couple of locals, is being coaxed back again. Tehree explained that once a Dingo has been in a trap they don't fall for that again!

They are having all the animals genetically tested to find which are the pure bred Dingoes and which are domestic dog crosses. The domestic crosses will be desexed and only the pure bred Dingoes allowed to breed. Unlike domestic dogs, the Dingo only comes into season once a year.

The Dingoes are very intelligent. Unfortunately this intelligence has bred some expert pickpockets - Tehree reckons they could teach the professionals a thing or two! They are also fond of chewing on all sorts of things - hence the new name for the place "Chew'don Manna".

Rita Mills

Journal of an Antarctic Voyage – Chris Morris *(Continued from May edition of Castlemaine Naturalist)*

Wed. 8 Mar. Day 11

Once again the fog melted away at the right moment and a brilliant sunlit day began with the temperature climbing to +13 C. yet we were barely 600 miles north of the Antarctic Circle. Elsehul Bay was our destination with its breeding grounds of three million fur seals. There was a feeling of joy about this scene as the fur seal population was close to zero a hundred years ago after a generation of sealing! Now we were on a shoreline seething with big-eyed juvenile fur seals playing in the Kelp beds. Joined by a parade of macaroni penguins coming down the cliff face of tussock and burnet to begin a day of foraging. Overhead Black-browed and Light-mantled Sooty Albatrosses riding the air currents over their nests in the tussocks.

Thurs. 9 March Day 12

Anchored Fortuna Bay to meet up with the overland crossing party whereupon the majority of us started the 5 km walk across the saddle in the footsteps of Shackleton et al and their salvation at the now abandoned whaling Station of Stromness. The rain set in and we were glad of the shelter afforded by the ruins until picked up (we are not of the heroic breed). Motored around the corner to the active community of Grytviken. Sampled the museum and found it hard to believe that 5000 people (tourists) visit the settlement each year from cruise/tourist ships, yachts etc. At least it provides money towards conservation of the place.

Fri. 10 March Day 13

Walked around the erstwhile whaling station – Grytviken – now a research station. Took in the beautifully restored Church. Spent time at the cemetery the biggest headstone being over Shackleton and lesser one's to drowned sailors. In its hey day there would have been 300 or more men here, processing the catch through the summer months. Onto Royal Bay, which called for some good seamanship crossing the bar by Zodiacs to be greeted by 20,000 King Penguins applauding politely, stretching and chorusing.

Sat. 11 March Day 14

Landed Prion Isle, a premier home to nesting Wandering Albatrosses and Southern Giant Petrels. Scrambled up the slippery track to get to the high ground among the tussocks passing an honour guard of Gentoo Penguins and Fur Seals putting on a show of mock deviance. By crouching down and shuffling along it

is possible to get close up views of the birds on the nest preening and feeding young.

Shifted ship to Salisbury Plain shore, notable for 400,000 King Penguins in residence, give or take a few. Who would argue? There are Penguins as far as the eye can see; probably the largest colony of Kings in existence.

A farewell sight of three Humpbacked whales blowing as we set course for the Falklands.

Sun. 12 March Day 15

After passing Shag Rocks in the morning mist we crossed the Convergence Zone and left the Antarctic behind. Made more memorable by a pod of Hourglass dolphins racing in and out of our bow wave, easily keeping pace with our 10.5 knots.

Mon. 13 March Day 16

Logged Grey Petrel, Great Shearwater, White-headed Petrel, Slender-billed Prion, Soft-plumaged Petrel, Grey-backed Storm-Petrel and South American Tern. Heard about the Geology of the Scotia Arc and earlier Trans Antarctic Expeditions from Jon Stephenson.

Tues 14 March Day 17

At Sea towards Sea Lion Island, a wildlife sanctuary part of the Falklands.

Wed 15 March Day 18

Landed Sea Lion Island. Quite outstanding for the range of bird and mammal species known to inhabit this remote island. Just shows you the biological productivity in Antarctic waters. For instance Wilson's Storm-Petrel, which breeds by the millions in the Antarctic, may be the most numerous bird in the world. Another perfect day for exploring on foot just ticking off the birds which barely moved out of the way. By way of a sample – Northern Royal and Southern Royal Albatrosses Rockhopper and Magellanic Penguins, Upland, Kelp and Ashy-headed Geese, Speckled and Silver Teal, Steamer and Crested Ducks, Turkey Vulture, Caracara, Two-banded Plovers, Magellanic Snipe, Dolphin, Kelp and Brown-hooded Gulls, Cobb's Wrens, Meadow Lark, Pipit, Tyrants and so on enough to drive a birder out of his mind. Sea Lions on the beach and Orcas in the Bay. Sadly one day only in such an unfenced Zoo.

Thurs 16 March Day 19

Back at sea ploughing our way homewards past the Islands into the Beagle Channel and onto Ushuaia where it all began.

Fri 17 March Day 20

Disembarked. Finito. Adios.

Front Page Illustration:

Cranberry Heath, *Astrolobma humifusum*. (Greek: *astron* – star, *loma* – fringe; alluding to the tuft of hairs inside the floral tube. Latin: *humifusus* – prostrate or spread on the ground.

Report on VCAT hearing - 15-16 May 2006 – Hans van Gemert

The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) sat in Castlemaine to hear an application for review of the Council decision to not grant a permit to VicRoads to remove 69 trees along the Pyrenees Highway. The Shire Council was represented by Mr Matt Gorman and all of the objectors were represented pro-bono by Dr George Ryan. The main thrust of the objectors was that all of the safety objectives could be achieved with a combination of barrier placements and speed reductions with the loss of no more than 6-8 trees. VicRoads relied mainly on American “specifications/guidelines” requiring a “clear zone” of 5-6 metres everywhere plus barriers.

The main obstacle to getting a favourable decision was DSE’s submission that VicRoads had met the conditions of clause 52.17 of the Planning & Environment Act whereas objectors claim this is not the case. The Tribunal Chair ordered the parties into discussions to seek agreement on possible Terms and Conditions. A decision is therefore not expected for 2-3 weeks.

Footnote: many people would have been distressed at seeing several hundred trees being removed where a new intersection is being created between the Pyrenees Highway and the off-ramp of the Freeway. This is a separate project and exemption from the usual permit provisions was granted back in 2003. The timing of this work was not disclosed during the VCAT hearing.

Mia Mia Road and around Newstead, for April – John Alexander

Unusual birds around home

Silvereyes – feeding on grapes

Eastern Spinebill – arrives about April or May each year, feeds on Correas and Rosemary shrubs in the garden. 4 - 6 birds.

Diamond Firetails – 5-6 birds feeding on the ground and using the birdbath for the last month.

Mistletoebird - also feeding on grapes.

Other interesting sightings in the bush around home

Scarlet Robin (male and female), White-throated Treecreeper, Varied Sitella.

Sightings of Swift Parrots (all sightings feeding in Grey Box trees)

2/4/06 Newstead Rotunda Park.

22/4/06 7.30am - 8.30am Corner of Mia Mia track and Bruce Track

29/4/06 8.00am - 9.00am Omega Reef Road

Around home regularly.

In flower Grey Box, Spreading Wattle, and Cranberry Heath looks magnificent.

Reference Books. Rose Watson from Maldon has requested a list of recommended books for novice naturalists wanting to build a good reference library. Rose is particularly interested in identifying insects... (see next 2 pages).

A Naturalist's Library – Ern Perkins

Plant identification. Generally, comprehensive guides (i.e. those covering all species) are best. If all the species are not included, it is sometimes difficult to make a positive identification. If the book is not comprehensive, make sure that the author is Victorian based.

Flora of Victoria. The standard reference is the *Flora of Victoria*, vol 2, 3 and 4. These books are technical and use lots of jargon, but are comprehensive. Almost all Victorian native and weed species are illustrated and described. If you do not know the name, then you need to use the keys. This takes skill and perseverance. Otherwise, leaf through about 3000 pages looking for a match. The total cost is close to \$1,000.

Native Trees and Shrubs of SE Australia by Leon Costermans. This is a “must have” book. It describes and illustrates the shrubs (over about a metre high) of SE Australia. If you do not know the name of a plant, the book has sections on plants of various regions. A book for every library.

There are also some excellent guides to particular groups of plants.

Orchids. There has been so much change that it is hard to get an up-to-date guide. I still use *The Orchids of Victoria*, by Backhouse and Jeanes (1995). It is an excellent guide, although some of the names are now changed.

Orchids of Bendigo by Rod Orr is a local guide.

Trees. Leon Costermans' *Trees of Victoria and adjoining areas* is a pocket-sized version of his *Native Trees and Shrubs*. It covers trees only.

Wattles. *A Field Guide to Victorian Wattles* by Fred Rogers has long been the reference to Victorian wattles. A new edition is expected in time for the Fred Rogers Wattle seminar, to be held in Ringwood in August. The larger Costermans book is a good guide for the larger wattles.

Eucalypts. The Bendigo Field Naturalists book *Eucalypts of the Bendigo District* is a good local guide. Many of the illustrations are by Leon Costermans.

Ferns. *Ferns and allied plants of Victoria, Tasmania and S.E. Australia* by Duncan and Isaacs is my preferred fern book. It is probably now difficult to obtain.

General Guides. These include *Victorias Box-Ironbark Country* ed M & J Calder, which has photographs of many of the more common wildflowers, *Wildflowers of Bendigo* by Bendigo FNC, *Plains wandering* by Hunt, Barlow and Ross, which is a guide to grassland plants. *The Flora of Melbourne* produced by the Maroondah Society of Growing Australian Plants is a comprehensive guide for the Greater Melbourne area. Many of the plants described and illustrated grow near Castlemaine.

Wildflowers of Victoria and adjoining areas, by Corrick & Fuhrer, is an excellent picture book with many illustrations. Much of it is relevant to Castlemaine.

Birds. We are fortunate in having a choice between some excellent books. A book with paintings by a good bird artist is much preferred to one with photographs. Important features (shared by each of the guides below) are clear illustrations (paintings), descriptions giving key identification features, habitat, song, and distribution, and distribution maps.

These guides include:

Birds (Morcombe)

Birds (Morecombe, compact edition)

Field Guide to Birds of Australia Simpson and Day

Field Guide to Australian Birds (Slater)

Field Guide to the Birds of Australia (Pizzey)

Fungi. There are so many species, many of which have not been formally named, that there is no comprehensive guide. Several books describe the more common species. *A field guide to Australian Fungi* by Bruce Fuhrer (2005) is the most comprehensive.

Insects. Insects are more numerous than all of the other animals. Many are not yet named. Apart from butterflies, the popular books identify only a tiny percentage of the insects of Australia, and often only go to the family level. The best, I think, is *Backyard Insects* by Horne and Crawford. It gives some examples of each of the major groups. There are several other guides that are worth considering. Remainder shops sometimes sell overseas insect books, which may not be relevant to Victoria.

The Complete Field Guide to Butterflies of Australia by Michael Braby is the most recent butterfly book. There are several earlier books which are similar.

CDs

CFNC screensaver illustrates many of the local wildflowers.

Plants and Animals of the Box-Ironbark Area (Viridans) has distribution and illustrations of many species. It is also useful in identification when the filter system is used.

Austgrass -grasses of Australia (Australian Biological Resources Study, Canberra [ABRS] identification series) is an interactive CD designed for grass identification. It has illustrations of each.

Eucalypts of SE Australia (Euclid, ABRS identification series)) is also an interactive CD for eucalypt identification

Wattles of Australia (ABRS identification series) is the third of the series. It covers all Australian wattles.

To be continued. Readers are invited to contribute to this series.

Endemic or Indigenous? – Frances Cincotta

Endemic means that in its natural occurrence a species is confined to a particular area. In the report on the Guildford Plateau excursion in the last edition of the Castlemaine Naturalist I noticed this incorrect use of the word endemic: **"Loddon River Crew set up a nursery to grow native plants, endemic to the area"**. If the statement were true the nursery would only be growing one species! Southern Shepherd's Purse (*Ballantinia antipoda*) is the only species Ern & Lesley Perkins and I can think of that is **endemic** in our shire. It used to be found in Tasmania and Victoria, but had not been seen for many years and was presumed extinct until found on Mount Alexander in 1983. I have not seen this plant in situ, but thanks to the screensaver CD I (and probably other CFNC members) am now familiar with what it looks like. Readers may also have seen a Fact Sheet published recently by DSE about this rare species. So, obviously the nursery is growing a range of native plants, **indigenous to the local area**.

Some examples of the use of the two terms:

Spiny Rice Flower (*Pimelea spinescens*) is **indigenous**, not **endemic**, to the Guildford Plateau as it also occurs naturally on the northern plains, and near Melbourne. Spiny Rice Flower is a Victorian **endemic** - it occurs naturally in no other state or territory. There are 90 species of *Pimelea* in Australia (including Spiny Rice Flower) and all of them are **endemic** to Australia i.e. not found in any other country. However *Pimelea* as a genus is **not endemic** to mainland Australia –there are *Pimelea* species **indigenous** to Lord Howe Is., NZ and Chatham Is.

River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) is **indigenous** to Guildford but it is **not endemic** to Guildford, or even to Victoria, as it occurs naturally in every mainland state and territory of Australia.

Tree Violet (*Melicytus dentatus*) occurs naturally in our local area, as well as in other parts of Victoria, in SA, Qld, NSW, ACT and Tasmania, but nowhere outside of Australia, so all the following statements are correct:

Tree Violet is **indigenous** to the Guildford Plateau.

Tree Violet is **indigenous** to Victoria.

Tree Violet is **indigenous** to Australia.

Tree Violet is **endemic** to Australia.

As you can see from the above examples you really should define the area you are talking about when using the terms indigenous and endemic. In my nursery I propagate and sell plants that are **indigenous to the Shire of Mount Alexander**. I also sell some native plants from other areas, so they are listed in the non local native section of my pamphlet. For the record I don't grow Southern Shepherd's purse!

Frances Cincotta, Newstead Natives Nursery, phone 5476 2691.

The Camargue - Nigel Harland

I was born in England and lived there until my late 20's. I remember geography lessons at school included learning about a region in the south of France called the Camargue. It is the estuary of the Rhone as it flows into the Mediterranean. The major points of interest were free ranging white horses and bulls. The bulls were caught to participate in the bullfighting arenas in France and Spain. I also had a recollection that the area was also known as a birdwatching region. Investigations revealed that was in fact the case, so Anne and I factored in a couple of days there on a recent visit to France.

We flew from London to Marseilles, picked up a hire car and drove to the south eastern corner of the peninsula. The drive was not particularly scenic and this part of the Camargue lacked interest in terms of birds. As we drove north, things changed and the industrial landscape was replaced by low lying areas of cultivated land with swamps. Even though the area is gazetted as a National Park, there are lots of houses and indeed villages all over the peninsula. We stopped at several likely spots, but saw few birds. Our main port of call was a place called Le Pont du Gau, on the western side of the estuary. This is a birdwatching sanctuary and has a hotel on site where you can stay. It was certainly more interesting, with some long walks around the lagoons. The main bird of interest was the Greater Flamingo – a bird more commonly associated with the African continent. There were thousands here and all very close. The camera proved worthwhile and I spent considerable time just sitting and watching their stately progress. There were also lots of Egrets, Grebe, Moorhen and Pied Stilts. Travels around the area turned up nothing to match it.

All in all it was an interesting trip, but I'm glad we didn't go there for longer. Travels into Provence and eventually Paris proved much more satisfactory, although not through binoculars!

Thank you for your Contributions.

Thank you for your contributions this month – a 12-page issue is the result! The purpose of the newsletter is to share information so keep sending in those articles, reports, requests and observations. Editor: Geraldine Harris, P O Box 703, Castlemaine, 3450. Ph 5472 2244 or email them to gedharris@castlemaine.net .

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the club.

Observations

- Several people reported seeing Parsons Bands *Eriochilus cucullatus* in several areas, including Kalimna (Richard Piesse and Penny Garnett), Jacobs Track and Muckleford forest (Rita Mills)
- Richard also reported that Barkers Creek is flowing at the botanical Gardens and that a Darter and Little Pied Cormorant have been seen there.
- About 40 Swift Parrots have been seen on the Castlemaine Golf Course. Debbie Worland.
- Hans van Gemert told of large groups of Striated and Spotted Pardalotes at their place. He noted that the flocks don't join each other but stay in their own groups. He also reported Swift Parrots visiting the trees on their place.
- Those who have been doing quadrats in the Monk/Poverty Gully area noted the mass of Spreading Wattle in full bloom - probably the best flowering for many years. Rita Mills
- Cranberry heath has also been flowering well and some quite big plants have been noted in a number of places around the district. Rita Mills
- People doing quadrates and people on the Swift Parrot survey have reported several different orchid species. Orchids seen include Autumn Greenhoods *Pterostylis revoluta*, Red-tip Greenhoods *P. affin parviflora*, Autumn Midge Orchid *Genoplesium archeri*, and Gnat Orchids *Cyrtostylis reniformis*. Rita Mills
- 20/5 Family (10) of White-browed Babblers feeding in the ground litter at the back of the Erin Court block. Geraldine Harris
- Good view of Owlet Nightjar while walking along Youngmans Track. Rita Mills
- Two Sticky Everlasting *Xerochrysum viscosum* plants in flower along race between Taradale and Elphinstone. Rita Mills

New CFNC Observers Group

This new email group is for CFNC members who wish to exchange local natural history observations and questions with each other "as they happen". The aim of the group is to keep each other up-to-date with sightings of flora and fauna in the area around Castlemaine, and to help each other learn more about the natural history of our district. Observations of particular interest may be published in the monthly CFNC newsletter.

Those interested in joining can e-mail Alison at amrowe@impulse.net.au and she will issue e-mail invitations which will give instructions how to join.

Newstead Wildlife Shelter – Barry and Dawn Angus
EMERGENCY NUMBERS 5476 2580 or 0428 571 752

Seana Spring Campout – Maryborough 13 – 15th October 2006

Maryborough Field Naturalists' Club Inc. invites you to the South East Australian Naturalists' Association Spring camp based at Maryborough in the renowned Box Ironbark Forests and Woodlands of the Western Goldfields. The venue will be the Maryborough Field Naturalists' Clubrooms, Dundas Road, Maryborough.

Accommodation: Visitors will be responsible for arranging their own accommodation. A pamphlet "Accommodation in Maryborough and surrounding region" is available. Caravan parks are located at Avoca, Baringup and Dunolly and there is free camping area in the Paddy Ranges State Park.

Registration Fee: A standard fee of \$20 applies for all or part of the camp. This fee covers camp administration and a contribution to SEANA. Registration and payment are due by the 30th August. Early registration would be appreciated as large numbers attending may necessitate an alternative venue for the Saturday evening events.

Programme:

Friday 13th Oct. Afternoon and evening arrivals, registration and get together in the Clubrooms.

Saturday 14th Oct. Morning and afternoon excursions departing from the clubrooms. SEANA meeting at Clubrooms.

Guest speaker (leading naturalist, Garry Cheers) followed by supper.

Sunday 15th Oct. Morning excursion departing from Clubrooms. Lunch (BYO) at Clubrooms. Hotwater etc. available.

Programme details are tentative at this time and may be subject to change.

Excursions: Excursions are planned to the nearby Paddy's Ranges State Park, nature conservation reserves and State Forests. These will be led by Parks Victoria staff and local naturalists. Travelling will be in convoys in private vehicles - distances will be restricted.

Visitors with more time may care to visit the St Arnaud Range National Park and the Kooyooda State Park, which are a little further north. MFNC and local Parks Victoria staff will be able to provide further information if required.

Reminders: Bring your own name tag. Bring your own cups, water bottles and thermos to take on excursions.

Further information:

Eileen Courtney, President, phone 54612249

Brian Johns, Secretary, phone 5461 2755 or email bjonsy@vic.chariot.net.au

Late enquires (after August 30) to Brian Johns.

Registration forms, accommodation info maps, etc. will be available at next CFNC meeting or contact Ern Perkins, Ph 54723124.

Update and expand your 'Native Trees and Shrubs of South-eastern Australia'

Leon Costermans, author of this well-known book, has produced a CD-ROM which not only updates the taxonomy of the book by explaining changes to some 250 species, but also describes hundreds of additional species, including many of the commoner ones which are smaller than the book's original lower limit of about a metre.

Files of the CD-ROM are in PDF format, will operate on any computer platform and are printable. They list all the changes and new species in two parts, one using the book's page number order, and the other alphabetical. All references are digitally cross-linked. There are also 216 high-quality photos, a map of all localities mentioned, a reference list with links to good websites, and a list of botanical authors.

The CD-ROM is available from VNPA, 60 Leicester St, CARLTON Vic 3053, phone (03) 9347 5188, email vnpa@vnpa.org.au. Price is \$25 (\$21-50 for VNPA members) including GST and postage. It can be ordered by phone or mail with credit card details or a cheque/money order, or on-line via www.vnpa.org.au (select 'Resources>View our catalogue'). Allow about two weeks for delivery.

Further details from:

Leon Costermans, 1/6 St Johns Ave FRANKSTON VIC 3199. Phone/fax (03) 9783 5015, email: lcost@bigpond.com

Error in Cris Tzaros's 'Wildlife in the Box-Ironbark Country'

Pages 184-185. The numbered sites listed do not match the numbers on the map. This error occurred in the final stages of printing. A correct map and legend is available on the CSIRO website <http://www.publish.csiro.au/pid/4856.htm>

From The Business Meeting 27/4/06

- The committee has accepted with regret the resignation of Nigel Harland.
- CFNC to forward a list of plants to the NCCMA for consideration as noxious weeds. Detailed list will be printed in July Newsletter.
- A subcommittee to be formed to review the constitution and bylaws of the Club.
- VCAT Report from Hans (see page 4).
- CFNC to create new account to process fundraising Photo Exhibition by Mary Thompson (see last months Business Meeting report).

Castlemaine Field Naturalists Programme - June 2006

General meetings (second Friday of each month, except January) are held in the Uniting Church (UCA) Hall (enter from Lyttleton St.) at 8.00 pm.

Excursions (Saturday following the general meeting) leave from the carpark opposite Castle Motel, Duke Street at 1.30pm sharp unless stated otherwise. BYO morning and afternoon tea. Outdoor excursions are likely to be cancelled in extreme weather conditions. There are NO excursions on total fire ban days.

Business meetings - fourth Thursday of each month, except December, at 27 Doveton Street, at 7.30 pm. All members are invited to attend.

VISITORS ARE WELCOME AT CLUB MEETINGS AND EXCURSIONS.

Fri Jun 9. Reconstruction of the Earth's Crust. Julian Hollis. UCA Hall, 8pm.

Sat Jun 10. Walk with Julian - Loddon River Valley. All day excursion. Depart from carpark opposite the motel in Duke St at 9.30am sharp or meet at the Trentham PO at 10.30am. BYO am/pm tea and lunch. Leader: Julian Hollis. Contact: Richard Piesse, Ph 5472 3191.

Sat Jun 24. Roadside Cleanup. Meet at Tait Decorative Iron, Pyrenees Highway, Castlemaine at 9am. Gloves, garbage bags and red safety vests supplied. Wear sturdy footwear. Contact: Hans van Gemert, Ph5472 1082.

Fri Jul 14. Antarctica. Chris Morris. UCA Hall, 8pm.

Sat Jul 15. Terrick Terrick. Full day excursion. Leader: Rita Mills.

Sun. July 30 Indigenous Plant Planting Day - FN have ordered 200 indigenous plants for Botanic Gardens Nth.

Sat 5. Sun 6 Aug. Swift Parrot Survey.

Fri Aug 11. To be arranged.

Sat Aug 12. To be arranged.

Fri Oct 13. CFNC Meeting UCA hall 8pm.

Sat Oct 14,15. Club members to attend Campout at Maryborough.

Oct 13,14,15. SEANA Campout at Maryborough. Register by Aug 30th. Early registration would be appreciated please. Details to date on page 10.

2006 Committee

Rita Mills (Pres).....	Ph 5472 4553	George Broadway (Sec)....	Ph 5472 2513
Hans van Gemert (Treas/ Public Off) ..	Ph.5472 1082	Ern Perkins (Web).....	Ph.5472 3124
Noela Cain.....	Ph 5470 6223	Athol Dorman.....	Ph.5472 4429
Chris Morris.....	Ph 9885 4221	Richard Piesse.....	Ph.5472 3191
Geraldine Harris (Editor)...	Ph. 5474 2244, PO Box 703, Castlemaine, 3450, gedharris@castlemaine.net		

Subscriptions for 2006 (Screensaver with each 2006 membership \$2postage)

Ordinary membership: Single \$22, Family \$30

Pensioner or student: Single \$19, Family \$24

The subscription includes postage of the monthly newsletter, *Castlemaine Naturalist*.

Website: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~cfnc>

Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club Inc., PO Box 324, Castlemaine. Inc #A0003010B